

# Paper Cohesion

# OVERVIEW

## Definition

## Levels

- 1. Paragraph Level
- 2. Section Level
- 3. Paper Level

## Creating Cohesion in Your Paper

- How to Achieve Cohesion
- Cohesion through Arrangement

# Paper Cohesion

# DEFINITION

## Cohesion

Cohesion in writing refers to the content of your writing coming together as one and its organization, flow, focus, coherence, and unity To create a cohesive paper and keep your reader's interest, each of your ideas should flow smoothly from one idea to the next. As a writer, your goal should be to connect your ideas and relate them back to your controlling idea, also known as your thesis statement.

## How to Achieve Cohesion in Your Paper

1. Identify a focal point
2. Consider the arrangement of your paper
3. Utilize cohesive ties

## Creating Cohesion Through Arrangement

### Arrangement by Time

- Chronological order
- Reverse chronological order

### Arrangement by Specificity

- Deductive order (main idea first and specifics after)
- Inductive order (specifics first and main idea after)

### Arrangement by Importance

- Order points from most important to least (or vice-versa)

### Arrangement by Classification

- Topics determine order
- Principles determine order

### Arrangement by Space

- Organized based on distance or relation to a given subject

### Arrangement by Familiarity

- Start with what is familiar to audience and then move to unfamiliar
- Start with unfamiliar and move to familiar

## Cohesive Ties

Cohesive ties refer to devices used to connect ideas in a text.

### Cohesive Ties Example (Transitions)

Many people are aware of the importance of their mental health. **However**, they often struggle to recognize symptoms of mental illness and are unsure where to find resources that will help them.

Cohesive ties include:

- Deictic expressions (pointers such as “here” or “now” that identify time and place)
- Transitions
- Repetition
- Parallelism
- Sentence structure

# CREATING

## Identify a Focal Point

When writing your paper, you need to know its main idea or main point (this is typically your thesis statement). Similarly, each section you write should have a main point that supports or relates to your thesis statement in some way. Each paragraph should also follow this pattern and include a main point or idea.

The simplest way to identify a focal point is to consider what you want your main idea to be for your paper overall, what you want the main idea of each section of your paper to be (if you have multiple sections), and what you want the main idea of each paragraph to be.

Helpful strategies to determine your focal point include making outlines, creating word maps/webs, and answering your original research question (if you have one).

## There Are 3 Levels of Cohesion:

### 1. Paragraph-Level Cohesion

Make sure that you have a good topic sentence, or controlling idea, for each paragraph. Each new paragraph is the start of a new idea, so you want to make sure that the rest of each paragraph relates to its topic sentence.

## There Are 3 Levels of Cohesion:

### 2 . Section-Level Cohesion

The controlling or main idea for a section is known as a section thesis. Section-level cohesion is making sure that each paragraph in your section follows your section thesis.

## There Are 3 Levels of Cohesion:

### 3 . Paper-Level Cohesion

Paper-level cohesion is making sure that your paper (all your sections and all the paragraphs within those sections) follows your paper's thesis, which is the controlling idea for your paper.

# Paper Cohesion

# REFERENCES

*Farkas, Kerrie R. H. The Transportable Writing Tool: A Guide for Writing and Revising. 2nd ed. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2020.*